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The Governor and
Company of Adventurers
of England Trading
into Hudson's Bay
incorporated 2nd May 1670

PAY RENT TO

His Majesty
King George VI

WINNIPEG • MAY 24TH 1939





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THE GRANTING OF THE CHARTER

It was from a vigorous England that the Hudson's Bay Company was born in 1670. In arts, sciences and trade, there was a restlessness and an eagerness for new fields to conquer. The chartering of companies by the Crown had been an established method of trade and territorial expansion for a century before the Hudson's Bay Company came into being.

The first charter of the Company is preserved in Hudson's Bay House, London. Part of the first sheet is reproduced on the cover of this program. The Charter consists of five sheets of parchment, each measuring thirty-one by twenty-five inches. Upon these are inscribed the truly imperial powers which "The Governor and Company of Adventurers of England trading into Hudson's Bay" were to enjoy. The Company was formed "for the discovery of a new Passage into the South Sea and for the finding some Trade for Furrs Mineralls and other considerable commodities." Rights to "sole trade and commerce" within the entrance of Hudson Strait were bestowed by Charles upon "our dear and entirely beloved cousin, Prince Rupert" and his associates. They were to be, said the Charter, "the true and absolute Lordes and Proprietors." It is true that the King granted more territory than was then known to white men, but it was, as one writer has said, "The vehicle for the conveyance of an opportunity of limitless value, because it was rightly used, but which would have been of no worth had not those to whom it was granted and their successors known how to handle wisely the great affairs entrusted to their charge." It proved to be a well-drawn Charter, for it withstood all attacks upon its validity despite countless examinations in courts of law.

In terms of geography today, the Adventurers were given the provinces of Ontario and Québec north of the Laurentian Hills and west of the Labrador boundary, the whole of Manitoba and Saskatchewan, the southern half of Alberta, and the south-east corner of the Dominion's North-West Territories.

The original Charter of 1670 has been supplemented by four others. All have been signed under the warrant of the reigning monarch, two by Queen Victoria, two by King George V.



WE YIELD AND PAY

Conforming to the practice of other royal charters of the period, a payment to the Crown was provided for in the Charter granted to the Governor and Company of Adventurers of England trading into Hudson's Bay. The payment in this case was to be "yeilding and paying yearly to us our heires and Successors for the same two Elkes and two Black beavers whensoever and as often as Wee our heires and successors shall happen to enter into the said Countryes Territoryes and Regions hereby granted."

The obligation was met for the first time in 1927, two hundred and fifty-seven years after the Charter was granted, when King Edward VIII, then Prince of Wales, was in Winnipeg.

Two magnificent elk heads have been obtained through the co-operation of the Federal Government. One set of antlers has twelve points and a spread of 54½ inches; the other, sixteen points and a spread of 47 inches. Their total weight is over 200 pounds. A sterling silver plate on the base of each carries the following inscription: "Yielded and paid to His Majesty King George the Sixth by the Governor and Company of Adventurers of England trading into Hudson's Bay under the terms of their Charter granted by King Charles the Second and to their first Governor Prince Rupert 2nd May 1670. Winnipeg, Canada, 24th May, 1939."

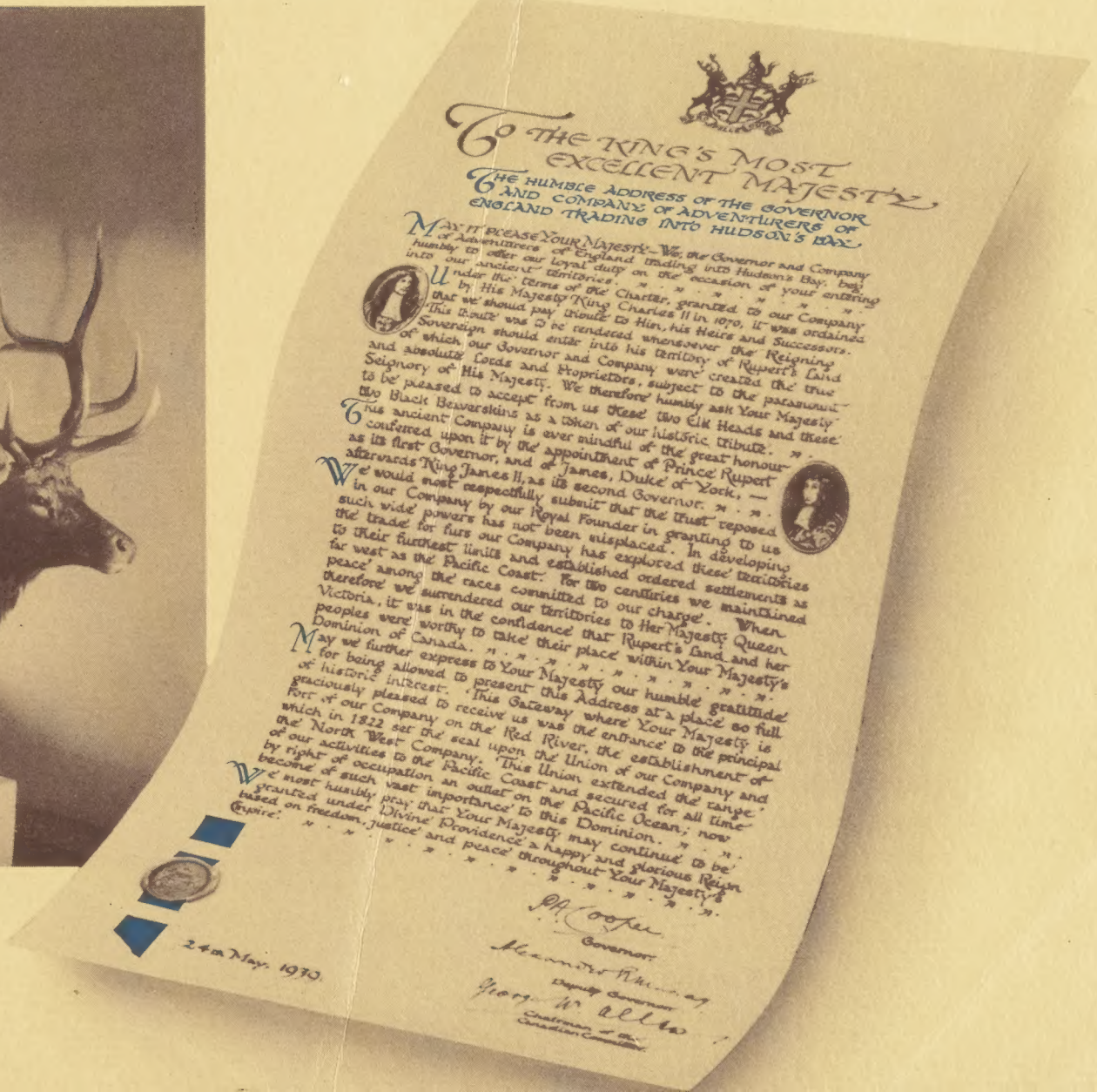
Black beaver skins are rare indeed, but two extra large, heavily furred pelts await the presentation ceremony. To each of the beaver skins is attached one of the "made-beaver" tokens, at one time used by the Company as currency in its territories.





TO HIS MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY KING GEORGE THE SIXTH

Patrick Ashley Cooper, the thirtieth Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company, will read this illuminated address at the Presentation Ceremony and then present it to His Majesty King George VI. the fourteenth Sovereign to rule over the British Empire since Charles II granted the Charter to "The Governor and Company of Adventurers of England trading into Hudson's Bay." The Company is now usually referred to as the Hudson's Bay Company.



TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY THE HUMBLE ADDRESS OF THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF ADVENTURERS OF ENGLAND TRADING INTO HUDSON'S BAY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY—We, the Governor and Company of Adventurers of England trading into Hudson's Bay, beg humbly to offer our loyal duty on the occasion of your entering into our ancient territories. . . .

Under the terms of the Charter, granted to our Company by His Majesty King Charles II in 1670, it was ordained that we should pay tribute to Him, his Heirs and Successors. This tribute was to be rendered whenever the Reigning Sovereign should enter into his territory of Rupert's Land and absolute Lords and Proprietors, subject to the true Seignory of His Majesty. We therefore humbly ask Your Majesty to be pleased to accept from us these Two Elk Heads and these Two Black Beaverskins as a token of our historic tribute. . . .

This ancient Company is ever mindful of the great honour conferred upon it by the appointment of Prince Rupert as its first Governor, and of James, Duke of York, afterwards King James II, as its second Governor. . . .

We would most respectfully submit that the trust reposed in our Company by our Royal Founder in granting to us such wide powers has not been misplaced. In developing the trade for furs our Company has explored these territories to their furthest limits and established ordered settlements as far west as the Pacific Coast. For two centuries we maintained peace among the races committed to our charge. When therefore we surrendered our territories to Her Majesty Queen Victoria, it was in the confidence that Rupert's Land and her peoples were worthy to take their place within Your Majesty's Dominion of Canada. . . .

May we further express to Your Majesty our humble gratitude for being allowed to present this Address at a place so full of historic interest. This Gateway where Your Majesty is graciously pleased to receive us was the entrance to the principal fort of our Company on the Red River, the establishment of which in 1822 set the seal upon the Union of our Company and the North West Company. This Union extended the range of our activities to the Pacific Coast and secured for all time by right of occupation an outlet on the Pacific Ocean; now become of such vast importance that Your Majesty may continue to be granted under Divine Providence a happy and glorious Reign based on freedom, justice and peace throughout Your Majesty's Empire. . . .

P. A. Cooper
Governor

Manfred McLeod
Deputy Governor

George W. Allen
Chairman of the
Canadian Committee

24th May, 1930.



AT OLD FORT GARRY GATE

FANFARE OF TRUMPETS

HIS MAJESTY ARRIVES

THE HIGH STEWARD shall call — "Patrick Ashley Cooper"

THE HIGH BAILIFF shall call — "Patrick Ashley Cooper"

PATRICK ASHLEY COOPER Esquire comes forward and reads the Address and then hands it to His Majesty.

THE HIGH STEWARD then proclaims —

"Are you ready and willing to render your Suit and Service as in duty bound."

PATRICK ASHLEY COOPER Esquire shall then answer—

"READY INDEED, and we hereby tender to His Most Gracious Majesty two Elk Heads and two Black Beaver Skins with the humble expression of our loyalty, love and affection, now and so long as we shall live."

THE PRESENTATION is then made, the Tenant kneeling on one knee.

HIS MAJESTY will be pleased to accept the Tribute.

THE HIGH BAILIFF then says —

"LET EVERY MAN DEPART and keep his day upon a new warning and so GOD SAVE THE KING."

THE HIGH STEWARD shall proclaim —

"GOD SAVE KING GEORGE THE SIXTH."

As these words encircle the globe through the magic of radio, 5,000 men and women in the service of the Company will join in the tribute to His Majesty.

GOD SAVE THE KING





Hudson's Bay Company.

INCORPORATED 2ND MAY 1670.